Post

Robinson Quits As State Dept. Controls Chief

5-22-48

By the United Press

Hamilton Robinson, storm center of criticism for his part in the State Department's loyalty program, has resigned as director of the department's Office of Controls, it was disclosed last night.

Robinson cleaned out his desk late yesterday as director of the office which frames regulations for security in Government departments and hears the appeals of persons who were dropped by the State Department as "poor security risks."

State Department sources said Robinson's resignation, first submitted last November, was entirely voluntary. It was believed he would enter private law practice in Washington, where he now makes his home. He is a native New Yorker.

Sources close to Robinson said his resignation was prompted by the fact that his activities were under constant fire by congressional committees.

Set Up Wartime Rules

They said the fact that Pulitzer prizes had been awarded recently to two Washington reporters for their revelations of the activities of the Office of Controls was not a factor in Robinson's resignation.

These sources said the 39-year-old executive wanted to resume private law practice in the Capital and would do so after a vacation in northern New York.

Robinson first came under fire as the chairman of the four-man security advisory board of the State-War-Navy Air Force Coordinating Committee. It wrote the minimum regulations—under a White House directive—to set up classified categories for information emanating from all executive departments and agencies.

These proposed regulations would give any excutive agency the right to classify information as "top secret," "secret," "confidential" or "restricted."

Reviewed Loyalty Cases

During the war, these classifications were given only to such sensitive departments as State, War and Navy.

Robinson also has been criticized for his role in passing upon 10 State Department employes who were fired last year as bad security risks. He was a member of the review group which looked over their cases.

That review was the basis for a series of stories by Bert Andrews of the New York Herald Tribune, which won a Pulitzer prize this year.

Nat S. Finney of the Minneapolis Tribune also was awarded a Pulitzer prize for his part in publicizing a proposal to set up minimum security regulations throughout the Executive Department.